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Integrating SOAR Training Into Social Work Education

PRESENTED BY:
SAMHSA SOAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

UNDER CONTRACT TO:
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES





Disclaimer

- This training is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or DHHS.



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Webinar Instructions

- Muting
- Recording availability
- Downloading documents
- Questions and Answers



SOAR WORKS

Agenda

SOAR Initiative with Schools of Social Work/ National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services

- Heather Larkin, MSW, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University at Albany SUNY/National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services

SOAR Overview

- Pam Heine, MSW, Senior Project Associate, SAMHSA SOAR TA Center, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

SOAR Field Placement at University of Texas- Austin

- Mar Padilla, MSW Student, University of Texas at Austin

SOAR Classes at Cal State Long Beach

- Nancy Meyer-Adams, MSW, Ph.D., Director, School of Social Work, California State University- Long Beach

SOAR Planning at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

- Linda Pitt Donaldson, MSW, PhD, Associate Professor, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
- Kate Baasch, MA ATR-BC, LPC, Miriam's Kitchen

Getting Started with SOAR Collaborations at University at Albany

- Heather Larkin, MSW, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University at Albany SUNY

Questions & Answers



SOAR WORKS

March is National Social Workers Month!



SOCIAL WORKERS
leaders. advocates. champions.



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Social Workers: Leaders. Advocates. Champions.

- Every day, the nation's 650,000 social workers act as advocates, champions and leaders who make our society a better place to live.
- Social Workers also follow the NASW Code of Ethics, which calls on members of the profession to enhance human well-being, and meet the basic needs of all people, with particular emphasis on the needs and empowerment of those who are vulnerable, oppressed or living in poverty.



SOAR + SOCIAL WORKERS = SUCCESS!!
leaders. advocates. champions.

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SOAR and Schools of Social Work
The National Center for Excellence

HEATHER LARKIN, MSW, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES
ALBANY, NEW YORK

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National Center Priorities

1. Respond to the Grand Challenge to End Homelessness
2. Develop strategic partnerships with:
 - National social work programs and CSWE
 - Federal and local governments
 - Homeless service agencies and leaders
3. Use a whole person/whole agency/whole community/whole system approach
4. Promote evidence-based and emerging practices
5. Expand innovations and develop policies to systematize innovations

National Homelessness Social Work Initiative

- Social work and homelessness
- NY Community Trust
- Build upon aging and child welfare initiatives
- The Grand Challenge to End Homelessness



About the Homelessness Initiative

- Partnership among 19 social work schools nationally
 - Six Regional Hub Leaders
- Regional network models in NY/NJ and other states
- Identifying baseline homelessness content and partnerships
- CSWE role



National Center Partners

FIGURE 2. National partner and New York liaison schools.

Partner Schools	NY/NJ Liaison Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binghamton University (SUNY) • California State University, Long Beach • California State University, Sacramento • Catholic University of America • Hunter College (CUNY) • Indiana University • Nazareth College • New York University • Saint Mary's College • The College at Brockport (SUNY) • University of Alaska, Anchorage • University at Albany (SUNY) • University at Buffalo (SUNY) • University of Denver • University of Houston • University of Maryland • University of Southern California • University of South Florida • University of Texas at Austin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diemen College • Lehman College • Long Island University • Roberts Wesleyan College • Rutgers University • Stony Brook University (SUNY) • Syracuse University • Touro College • Yeshiva University

Partner School Activities



- Research and evaluation
- Education and curriculum
- Field placements
- Inter-departmental partnerships
- University-community partnerships
- Community awareness
- Policy advocacy

These examples and more are featured on the National Center blog:
<https://nationalcenterforexcellenceinhomelesservices.wordpress.com/>

SOAR Social Work Pilot Project

- Network of four schools and departments of social work (each implementing differently)
- Monthly collaboration, innovation exchanges through teleconferences
- Consultation and ongoing coordination with CSWE, SAMHSA's SOAR Technical Assistance Center; VA
- Scale-up goals

SOAR Benefits

- People with disabilities who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness (e.g. those returning to the community from institutions such as jails, prisons, or hospitals)
- May assist to lift individuals out of poverty
- Early step of recovery for those with mental health, addiction, and related impairments including cognitive impairments

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SOAR Overview

PAMELA HEINE, MSW, LSW
 SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE
 SAMHSA SOAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
 POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

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The SOAR Model
 What is SOAR?

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What is SOAR?

- A model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- For individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disabilities
- Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) since 2005
- All 50 states and Washington, D.C. currently participate

What Makes SOAR Unique?

SOAR-trained social workers are the heroes!



SOARWORKS CRITICAL COMPONENTS

- 01 Using the SSA-1696 Appointment of Representative form
- 02 Collecting & submitting medical records
- 03 Writing & submitting a Medical Summary Report
- 04 Obtaining Co-signature on a Medical Summary Report
- 05 Completing a quality review of applications before submission

Applications that use all five of the critical components are significantly more likely to be approved!



SOAR Works!

SOARWORKS 2017 NATIONAL OUTCOMES

2017 OUTCOMES

INITIAL APPLICATIONS

- 96 days to complete on average
- 64% approval rate
- 3,563 initial approvals

APPEALS

- 186 days to complete on average
- 52% approval rate
- 636 appeals approvals



And Works!

CUMULATIVE OUTCOMES

- 34,919 cumulative initial approvals
- 40,311 people receiving benefits because of SOAR
- 5,392 cumulative appeal approvals



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How do States and Communities Benefit?

SSI/SSDI and Medicaid/Medicare bring federal dollars into states, localities, and community programs:

- Health providers can recoup cost of uncompensated care (2017: \$503,932)
- States and localities can recoup the cost of public assistance
- Cash benefits and back payments received by individuals is spent in the local community (2017: \$356 Million)

A Foundation for Recovery

SSI/SSDI provides more than income:

- Access to health care and housing
- Increased employment opportunities
- Decrease in incarcerations and hospitalizations

SOARWORKS **SAMHSA**

SAMHSA SOAR TA Center
The SOAR Online Course and Online Application Tracking (OAT) Program

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SOAR TA Center Activities and Support

 SOAR Online Course	 SOAR Leadership Academy	 SOAR Online Application Tracking (OAT) Program	 SOARWorks Library
 SOAR Voices Blog	 SOARing Over Lunch	 SOAR eNews	 BI-Monthly Webinars

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SOAR Online Course

<p>Articles & Content</p> 	&	<p>Practice Case Component</p> 
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Benefits of the SOAR Online Course

- Standardized training across all geographic areas
- Allows SOAR Leaders to coordinate follow-up training and support
- 20 NASW CEUs
- FREE, web-based, self-guided



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Overview of the SOAR Online Course

- <http://soarworks.prainc.com>
- 20 hours to complete
- 7 classes (from SOAR 101 to work incentives!)
- Practice case overview
- Submission of the practice case
- Cohort model – why it’s important!

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Outcomes Tracked in OAT

Outcomes for Initial Applications & Appeals


 Approval Rates


 Time to Decision


 SOAR Critical Components

Additional Outcomes


 Housing


 Employment


 Reimbursements

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SOAR Field Placements at University of Texas at Austin

MAR PADILLA
 MSW STUDENT
 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SAMHSA

Field Placements: University of Texas at Austin

Piloted field placements integrating SOAR training

- MSW students completed SOAR certification
- Placed in homeless service agencies
- Students incentivized with stipends



SOAR Coursework at Cal State Long Beach

NANCY MEYER-ADAMS, MSW, PH.D.
 DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY- LONG BEACH
 LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA



CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

- Advanced Practice elective: *Homelessness Prevention & Intervention in SW Practice* – Fall 2016
- Developed and taught by Paul Duncan, LCSW, Associate Director of Systems Integration for Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- SOAR certification process – major assignment for the course (16-24 hours to complete)

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

SOAR assignment addresses the following course objectives:

- Identify and assess risk factors for becoming homeless and barriers to resolving episodes of homelessness.
- Formulate and implement appropriate responses for the needs and strengths of those who are experiencing homelessness.
- Critique how forms of prejudice and oppression impact marginalized groups and contribute to the disproportionality of the homeless population in the U.S.
- Apply cultural humility in working with diverse homeless populations.

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

- Students' feedback:
 - Useful project – "powerful learning experience"
 - Great resume builder
 - Positive feedback on the quality of the SAMHSA online training curriculum
 - Only one student out of 15 felt the SOAR process was overwhelming and did not complete the assignment for certification

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

- Instructor's feedback:
 - Work with students in first class meeting on SAMHSA SOAR sign up process to ensure all students can access immediately
 - Set up periodic check-ins throughout semester for students to verify where they are in the process
 - Review a sample Medical Summary Reports (MSR) in class as an example to encourage group discussion and participation

Opportunities in Los Angeles County

On a local level there are some exciting things that have been occurring that relate to potential opportunities for students/graduates in homeless services.

- Passage of Measure H:
 - 500 newly created jobs throughout LAC
 - Course covers evidenced-based interventions funded through Measure H
- One Measure H strategy is to create a county-wide benefits advocacy program.
 - Programs have begun and are located within DPSS offices and will be assisting people experiencing homelessness in applying for social security.
 - Measure H funds proposed to expand funding by \$15 million annually.
 - Serving 10,000 people annually in applying for benefits and will leverage Medicaid expansion
 - Excellent opportunity for those who are SOAR certified pursuing employment within homeless services



SOAR Planning at Catholic University

LINDA PLITT DONALDSON, MSW, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Emerging Partnership at CUA with Local SOAR Community

- Well-integrated and well-organized SOAR community
- Individual conversation with DC SOAR Coordinator to introduce Center, CUA, and engage in conversations around potential partnerships and collaborations
- Attended SOAR Provider meeting in Fall 2016 to make introductions
- Hosted SOAR provider/NCSSS meeting to brainstorm partnership ideas
- Asked NCSSS to facilitate 1/2 day strategic planning process

DC SOAR Strategic Planning Priorities

Expand SOAR Capacity
(Primary purpose of partnership)

Develop SOAR Sustainability Plan

Improve Communication/Structure
with SSA/DDS

DC SOAR Strategic Planning Priorities: Expanding SOAR Capacity

- NCSST hosting Summer 2017 Cohort Community for Online Training
 - In-person kick-off May 19th and 'graduation' July 14th
 - Weekly conference calls for check-in, accountability, and community-building
- Planning SOAR Field Unit (starting Fall 2018)
 - Identifying several placements to take students SOAR specialists
 - Will design summer course on homelessness that will incorporate SOAR online training

DC SOAR Strategic Planning Priorities: Expanding SOAR Capacity

- Biggest Challenge in Creating SOAR Placements
 - Recruiting students (they have so many competing options)
 - Stipends would be wonderful incentive
 - We are just starting so there is no word-of-mouth 'buzz'
 - We have distributed fliers, presented in classes, and posted information about the opportunity

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Getting Started with SOAR
 Collaboration
 University at Albany

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 NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES
 ALBANY, NEW YORK

SAMHSA

University at Albany

- Explored with State Interagency Director of Homeless Services readiness to build student units to foster SOAR
- NYS has generous supports and a safety net that is constitutionally required for all New Yorkers
- Moving eligible homeless individuals to SSI/SSDI very cost effective

University at Albany

- Unsure if a new funded field unit was needed or whether MSW supervisor available at SOAR sites
- Located agency and supervisor undertaking SOAR and willing to take student(s)
- Confirmed field placement availability with field director
- Now awaiting news of whether we have students and whether state agency might subsidize with small student stipend fall field placement

SOAR: Collaboration Opportunities

- Schools of Social Work efforts connected to networks, coalitions, and communities of practice, both locally and nationally.
- SSI/SSDI benefits can lift recipients out of poverty and homelessness.
- Without the clinical and advocacy efforts, such access and individual self help success might be limited as only 10-15 % can secure SSI/SSDI on their own.

SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

SOAR In Your State

SOAR is available in all 50 states. Please use the map below to view information for your state.

Does your community deserve some time in the spotlight?
 Fill out our [SOAR question creator](http://soarworks.com/ta-center/question-creator) and send it to your TA Center liaison along with a picture of your team and we will feature your answers in a community spotlight blog post!

<https://soarworks.princ.com/directory>

SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

SOAR WORKS SAMHSA

SOAR: Outreach, Access, and Recovery

SOAR In Your State | Online Course | SOAR Voices Blog | Application | Library | Ask a Question

District of Columbia

State Team Lead(s):
 Kate Baasch
 Email: kate.baasch@mississippihhs.org
 Phone: 202-452-8926 x256

Ashley Moore
 Email: ashleym@soarworksdc.org
 Phone: 202-386-7605

TA Center Liaison: Jen Elder
 Email: jelder@princ.com
 Phone: (518) 459-7415 x256

View | Contacts | Trainings | Documents

Description of Project
 The SOAR effort in D.C. is an initiative designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

<https://soarworks.princ.com/directory>

SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

Use social work skills:

- Build relationships with SOAR leadership and SOAR provider community
- Start with face-to-face meeting
- Meet them where they are
- Ask what a helpful partnership might look like
- Share what other schools are doing as examples

<https://soarworks.princ.com/directory>

SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

Partner with Field Office

- Build SOAR-specific placements (field unit)
- Consider offering class with SOAR online training embedded within
- Support SOAR students in field



<https://soarworks.princ.com/directory>

SOAR: One Key in Homelessness Fight

- SSI/SSDI is not the only solution to homelessness, but for those with disabilities it's a major resource since recovery supports are essential; there is a 67% approval rate with a wait of 101 days on average.
- Imagine the multiplier effect if all SW students were SOAR certified, given the prevalence of homelessness across so many service systems.
- We need to close the eligibility gap to get better foothold on ending homelessness.



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Next Steps

- ✓ Learn more about SOAR
- ✓ Get in touch with your SOAR TA Center liaison
- ✓ Reach out to your local or state SOAR leads
- ✓ Register for the SOAR Online Course

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Questions and Answers

Facilitated By:
SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

Please type your questions into the "Ask Questions Here" box located lower right side of screen, or to ask questions verbally, click "Raise Hand"(top) so we can unmute your line

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Connect With Us!

<https://soarworks.prainc.com>

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